

# MERCATOR.

Numb. 54.

From Thursday, September 24. to Saturday, September 26. 1713.

*The Opposers of the Treaty dwell upon what Cavils they can raise at the French Trade in Years past, but backward to Examine, how it is to stand for time to come.*

*A foolish Question ask'd by one of them, How many Woollen Manufactures there had been carried into Dunkirk in those 218 Ships formerly mentioned? when they know the Woollen Manufactures are Prohibited in France, for want of the Treaty being made Effectual.*

*Another wild Notion, That the Scarcity of Corn in France only happens by our obliging the French to take their Men away from the Plough to the Army.*

*They are moved to address the Parliament to make the Articles Effectual, provisionally to be void again, if the Trade does not prove to our Advantage.*

*They are afraid of an Experiment.*

**T**HE Opposers of the Treaty of Commerce with France find it seems, that it is best for their purpose to look back to the Trade as it has been in times past, rather than to what it must of necessity be, or is probable to be, for the time to come.

Belike they find more room to cavil and raise Doubts and Scruples about Rates, and Prices of Goods, than they are like to do for the Trade, that is now to come.

Some Specimen has been shewn them of what this Trade is like to be by the Import of British Ships at Dunkirk. It cannot but be remember'd, what a weighty Question a certain Party-Author ask'd upon the sight of that List of Ships; (*viz.*) *But how many Woollen Manufactures were there carried into Dunkirk?*

This is the way this Treaty has been opposed from the beginning; (*viz.*) by Absurdity and Clamour: Sure these People are in jest with the Nation all this while. What is it the *MERCATOR* complains of? Is it not of the Articles not being made Effectual, that our Woollen Manufactures might have gone into Dunkirk and elsewhere as well as other Goods? But how should any Manufactures GO IN, when they are Prohibited? Such Logick the Opposers of this Trade make to go down with the deluded abused People of this Kingdom, and then back it with Railing and rude Words.

Another Deceiver insinuates now, That the Scarcity of Corn in France is not a thing, that ever happens in France in time of Peace, and that the Want they suffer now, or had suffered before, was not from Heaven, but for want of Men to Till the Land, we having so beaten them, that they were forced to take their People up to Recruit their Armies, and so for want of Plough-Men they had a Famine.

It is not that the *MERCATOR*, will trouble his Readers with following these Magi, in their Shiftings and Turnings, that this is mentioned; but to give a Specimen of their way of Reasoning, and leave the World to judge by it of the rest, which they may expect.

It is now time to look forward to what the Trade IS, as well as backward to what it WAS. How we are unhappily shut out from the Vent of our Manufactures in France, and how our Wooll at home is fallen for want of that Consumption, has been already spoken of; and the poor Clothiers are made sensible of it all over the Nation by a sad Experience.

Yet even as it is, we are told from good Hands, that at Dunkirk and other parts of France, large Quantities of English Woollen Manufactures have been run on shore there by private Trade, and that they sell for a prodigious Price: If the French Manufactures were so good and so cheap, and in such great Quantities, this would be very improbable.

But the Opposers of the Treaty have a double Advantage of us in this; they tell us the French will want none of our Manufactures; and they know we cannot

make the Experiment, because till the Articles are made Effectual the French cannot take them. This is like the rest of the Party-Logick the Treaty of Commerce meets with. It would be happy for Britain could some Medium be found out to see, what Length our Trade will run, when all the Prohibitions and high Duties in France shall be taken off, and the Trade left open as it is to be by the Treaty. And could this be done, we should soon see these Men would be ashamed of all the Affirmations they have made, that the French want none of our Manufactures.

And here it is to be observed, that were it true which these Men spend their Wits upon, (*viz.*) that the Balance of Trade was against us in the Years they are now upon, this would not prove the Case in the least; nay, their very attempting to state it for the Years 1685 or 1686, shews how unfairly they act, and how they catch at all clandestine Methods to make their Party-Cause look fair; because several of the high Duties in France, by which the Import of our Manufactures there was lessened and interrupted, were laid on before that time. The Question then will be, whether the quantity of our Manufactures, that shall now go into France, shall not be much greater than it was then, since all those high Duties are to be taken off back to 1664? And as it has been already argued, that the Quantities of French Goods, which shall come here, will be less, because Dearthness lessens Consumption; so the Quantities of our Goods going into France, will be more upon the taking off their Duties, because Cheapness causes Consumption: What the Opposers can say to this, remains to be heard.

What would the Opposers of the Commerce have said, had it been left to the Experiment? And the *MERCATOR* wishes it were so in the Treaty; and advises them to address the Parliament, if they are not backward to see the Experiment, that the Treaty may be made Effectual provisionally for a certain term, suppose three Years, that so a Medium of the Trade may be taken, not from what had been or might be supposed to be, but as Experience shall prove it to be, with this Provision, (*viz.*) That if at the end of three Years, or less if they please, by a just Medium of the Trade, the Imports from France should be found to overbalance the Exports to France, all just Allowances of Freight, &c. being made, and the Trade should be found to our Loss, that then the Parliament of Britain might reassume the former high Duties on French Goods here, and the French King do the like on our Goods in France.

Then we should soon see, where the Value of the Trade lay; and no question, especially if Party-Rage were drop'd out of the Dispute, as God defend it should last for ever, we should see the Manufacturers of every part of Great-Britain Addressing and Petitioning to keep open the Trade to France for the sake of the vast quantities of English Woollen Manufactures which would be carried thither from all Parts.



It is acknowledged, that would Men Impartially consider Things, and justly state the Probabilities, which appear on both Sides, (viz.) Of the Importations from France being less than ever, and the Exportations to France being more than ever, and give themselves leave to judge Impartially without Party-Views, there would be no occasion for such a provisional Reserve in the Treaty; nor could those Men, who have the true Interest of Trade in their View, imagine there could ever be occasion for such a Reserve.

But because the Experiment of our Commerce cannot be made till the Treaty is made Effectual, that Exigence puts a great Advantage into the Hands of those, whose Case is best supported by Suggestions and Amusements; the proof of the Thing would destroy them: Nor will they by any means come into a provisional Agreement, to see, whether the Matter of Fact will be for or against them; for this would destroy the Foundation of Clamour, which now they trust to, and deprive some People thereby of the most useful Weapon, which they have to fight this Battle with.

The Proposal is however the most equal in the World; Three Years Trade can be very little Prejudice, and the Experiment will certainly be worth all the Hazard of Loss.

If it should appear, that the high Duties upon French Wine does not lessen the Consumption, but that we Drink as much at 20d. per Quart to 2s. as we did at 10d. and 12d. and Import as much, paying 27l. per Ton Custom, as we did, when we paid but 7l. 10s. per Ton.

If it should appear, that the high Duties upon French Brandy do not lessen the Consumption, but that we Drink as much Brandy at 3s. per Quart, as we did at 9d. and Import as much, paying 51l. per Ton Custom, as we did at 30s.

If it should appear, that all our Paper-Makers newly set up in Britain, all the Sail-Cloth making, the Lancashire and Irish Linen, and all the Weaving of Silks in England, together with the difference made in the Value, and the Encouragement given by the high Duties, which are to remain, should not cause us to Export less Quantity of the Linen, Paper, and wrought Silks of France, in the said Three Years.

If, on the other Hand, the taking off the Duties in France from our Woollen Manufactures does not open a Door there to a larger Importation; if Cheapness of our Goods there does not encrease the Consumption; if the French appear to be so far Improved in Manufactures, and so supplied with Wooll, as to want none of our Goods, as has been without any manner of Proof or Probability openly affirmed; in a word, if it be found that the Trade to France Overbalances to our Loss, and the French draw Money from us to make good the Balance, then a British Parliament may at once put an end to it; the high Duties and Prohibitions on either Side may take place again.

This is (1.) Paying a due Homage to the Parliament of Britain, and putting the whole Power of the Commerce in their Hands, that they may act therein as their usual just Concern for the good of their Country shall direct them. (2.) This is putting the Affair in a way of clear Evidence, whereby FACT alone shall determine the Dispute; and the People of Britain shall be no more Amused with the doubtful Opinions and false Suggestions of one Side or other, and the Trade may be continued, or not continued, as it shall appear to be, or not to be our real Advantage.

If these Opposers, who boast so much of their being Right, do not desire this, and do not apply to the Parliament to bring it to such a Test, it is a proof, that they are less confident of the Weight of what they say, than the Assurance with which they say it implies; and that they have some other End to serve by the Opposing the Treaty of Commerce, than the Good and Advantage of their Country.

Those, who are sure of their Opinion, never shun the Demonstrations of it, or the bringing what they alledge to the Test, that it may be tried, whether it be Matter of Fact or no. The Parliament will be soon sa-

tisfied, when they see the Account of One or Two Year, whether has the Advantage in the Trade; and if these Gentlemen dare to refer it to a British Parliament, all Parties will be satisfied in their Determination, if not, it will pass for a Sign of their being sensible, that they are in the Wrong.

*Advertisement to the Impartial Readers of all the Papers on the Subject of Trade.*

**THE MERCATOR** has justly complained of the Rudeness and Indecency of the Writers, who Oppose him; he cannot prevail with himself to call a false Thing by the rough Name of a LYE, as they do even to what is Truth: GLARING IMPUDENCE are words unfit for Arguments, and become no Man, whose Sense acts by good Manners upon clear Truths; and yet the **MERCATOR** Appeals to all that value the Name of Gentleman, if it is not hard to keep Temper under such Treatment as the following, which he only repeats, to let Honest Men see, how he is treated for an Error of the Press, which was immediately Corrected.

In their Paper called *Merchant*, No. 15, is the following very modest Expression.

"I am Charged with valuing Callicoes at only Ten Shillings per Piece. I must confess I was at first mistaken at this Charge.

"As soon as I came to my self, I presently took up the beforementioned *British Merchant*, where I read in plain legible English Characters

"Callicoes and Mullins 38476 Pieces, at TWENTY SHILLINGS per Piece 38476 l.

"I could scarce at first believe my own Eyes, I read it over and over, at least Ten times, and every time I read TWENTY SHILLINGS per Piece, and in it which demonstrates I meant TWENTY SHILLINGS per Piece, is, that the Number of Pounds is equal to the Number of Pieces: He has published many Papers since the beforementioned, and has never ONCE corrected this Error: This is a GLARING Evidence of the Impudence of this Writer, and that he will never stick at a LYE to gain any Advantage over his Adversary.

The Case is this: The Printer of the **MERCATOR**, No. 42, had by Mistake printed Ten Shillings for Twenty, which was Corrected by an Errata in the very next **MERCATOR**, No. 43. Thus,

*ERRATA in the Last.*

Col. 2. line 27. for Ten read Twenty. Ibid. line 35 for Ten read Twenty. Vide **MERCATOR**, No. 43.

Let the World judge of the Honour, Truth, and good Manners of these People; had this scribbling Fury looked as carefully for the Correction, as he did for the Mistake, how could he have said the **MERCATOR** had never once Corrected this Error; and if he had not examined and look'd for it, with what Face can he give any Man the LYE in print, in a Thing he was not sure of?

Such Charity! such Justice! O Hominem! O Mores!

The **MERCATOR** desires all Gentlemen, and Men of Honour, to be Judges of the Matter.

*ERRATA in our Last.*

Col. 2. line 12. for during the other 8 Years, read during the other Year.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

This Day is publish'd,

**P**roposals for a very easie Tax to raise between Two and Three Millions of Money per Annum, (if not a greater Sum) in the room of the Land-Tax, to begin to pay the Publick Debts, and discharge the Nation not only from all those Taxes that these Two late expensive Wars have loaded us with, but from all other Taxes that are paid to Her Majesty, in a few Years time; with other happy Consequences that will accrue to the Kingdom in general, if it should be laid on and continu'd. Also Proposals for the further Encouraging the Woollen-Manufactures of this Kingdom in foreign Parts. Printed for J. Morphew, near Stationers-Hall, Price 2d.

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